

Iowa Department of Human Services Child Welfare Partners Committee

Overview: The Child Welfare Partners Committee was established in December 2008, and will be comprised of a Steering Committee and various work groups. The Steering Committee will provide overall guidance and leadership to the partners' work groups. The Steering Committee and work groups will focus on the full range of child welfare contracted services.

The CWPC Steering Committee sets the tone for the collaborative public-private work groups and ensures coordination of messages, activities, and products with those of other stakeholder groups. The CWPC will act on work group recommendations, test new practices/strategies, and continually evaluate and, as needed, refine its approaches.

The Steering Committee and its work groups will include both Contractor (private) and DHS (public) representatives. Private representatives will reflect both Coalition and Non-Coalition members. The Steering Committee will have seven each of public and private members, the work groups will vary and will often include stakeholders from other sectors based on the specific work group focus.

Our Beliefs: Both the public and private child welfare agencies have critical roles to play in meeting the needs of Iowa's children and families. A stronger public-private partnership will have a positive impact on results. The children and families we jointly serve deserve no less than our best collaborative efforts.

Our Vision: Joint planning, mutual problem-solving opportunities, and actions taken in a collaborative, continual quality improvement process will strengthen the partnership between the child welfare public and private contract providers and improve the integration/coordination of contracted services. A true sense of shared accountability will occur when we join forces at the state level and in the field to mutually address the policy, practice, and fiscal issues that will help us improve the *results that both public and private agencies want* -- safety, permanency, and well being for children and families that are served in the child welfare system.

Our Primary Purpose: The purpose of the Child Welfare Partners Committee and its work groups is to strengthen the public-private partnership in order to improve outcomes for children and families. Through collaborative public-private efforts we will create a more accountable, results-driven, high-quality, integrated system of contracted services that achieves results consistent with federal and state mandates and the Child & Family Service Review outcomes and performance indicators. The Committee will serve as the State's primary vehicle for discussion of current and future policy/practice and fiscal issues related to contracted services. Specifically, using a continuous quality improvement framework, the Committee will propose, implement, evaluate, and revise new collaborative policies and/or practices to address issues identified in workgroup discussions.

Our Guiding Principles: The Partner's Steering Committee and Work Groups will operate in a manner that is consistent with the following guiding principles:

- Courtesy & Respect
- Honesty & Confidentiality
- Balance competing priorities & manage inevitable conflicts of interest
- Strive for consensus
- Present a united front